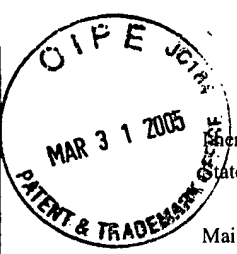


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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On March 28, 2005

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
By: Eleanor J. Taylor

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:  
  
SHUZO FUJIMURA et al.  
  
Application No.: 09/328,939  
  
Filed: June 9, 1999  
  
For: SURFACE TREATMENT  
METHOD AND EQUIPMENT  
  
Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No.: 7514  
  
Examiner: Shamim Ahmed  
  
Technology Center/Art Unit: 1765  
  
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
Mailed September 28, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 28, 2004, please enter the following amendments and remarks. A petition for a three month extension of time to respond to this office action is being filed herewith..

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.